

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 00400 041201Z

15

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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P R 041132Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2563

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 0400

EXDIS

BEIRUT FOR AAO/BALL

STATE PASS AID FOR NOOTER

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OEXC, EAID, SY

SUBJECT: SYRIAN SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

REF: DAMASCUS 0325

1. DEPUTY MIN HIGHER EDUCATION HAS CONFIRMED TO PAO THAT ENTIRE EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM, INCLUDING AUB/AID SCHOLARSHIPS AND CU/SPONSORED FULBRIGHT-HAYS GRANTS, IS "UNDER REVIEW." MEANWHILE, NO FURTHER ACTION CAN BE TAKEN ON THESE PROGRAMS. DEP MIN STATED HE EXPECTS NEW INSTRUCTIONS IN ABOUT ONE WEEK.

2. EFFECTIVELY, THIS MEANS AUB/AID PROJECT SLOTS CANNOT BE USED FOR MID-YEAR CANDIDATES, WHATEVER DECISION SARG EVENTUALLY RENDERS ON ENTIRE PROGRAM.

3. IN INTERESTING SIDELIGHT, DEP MIN HIGHER EDUCATION REVEALED HE COMPLETELY IN DARK ON WHAT CAUSED SUDDEN POLICY SHIFT AND REQUESTED PAO FURNISH HIM PRIVATELY ANY INFORMATION HE HAD. THIS FOLLOWED BY FULL REVIEW OF CIRCUMSTANCES LEADING TO MISUNDERSTANDING, DURING WHICH POINT REPEATEDLY MADE THAT ALL PROGRAMS DISCUSSED WITH SARG WERE TO BE FUNDED FROM USG FUNDS.

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4. DEP MIN, WHO KEY RESPONSIBLE IN FOREIGN SCHOLARSHIP MATTERS,
LEAVES TODAY FOR TWO-WEEK CONFERENCE IN CAIRO. THUS,
EXPECT NO ACTION FROM MINISTRY FOR AT LEAST THAT LONG.
MURPHY

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NNN

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